



**Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc
A0050224L (Incorporated in Victoria)**

Testimonial for Basil and Jean Baldwin: Life Membership – Hazelnut Growers of Australia

Speech given by HGA Executive Officer Trevor Ranford at 2025 Australian Hazelnut Conference in Launceston, Tasmania on 11 October 2025.

It is a great privilege to recognise Basil and Jean Baldwin with Life Membership of Hazelnut Growers of Australia. This honour is a fitting acknowledgement of the decades of work, vision, and quiet dedication that both Basil and Jean have given to the Australian hazelnut industry and to the grower community.

From the earliest years of commercial hazelnut plantings in Australia, Basil and Jean were among the pioneers who not only established orchards but also built the foundation of an industry. Their property became a place of learning and exchange, where fellow growers and newcomers could seek advice, see good practice in action, and gain encouragement to persist with this relatively new and challenging crop. Basil's practical knowledge of soils, irrigation, orchard design and tree husbandry was always shared with generosity, while Jean provided the steady, thoughtful support that enabled them to make long-term decisions with confidence.

Beyond their own orchard, Basil and Jean devoted countless hours to supporting the work of Hazelnut Growers of Australia. Whether it was attending meetings, hosting visitors, contributing to field days, or representing the industry in discussions with researchers and government agencies, their input was consistently practical, constructive, and forward-looking. They were never ones to seek the spotlight, but they could always be relied upon to lend their voice, their experience, and their perspective for the good of all.

One of their most enduring contributions has been their encouragement of others. Many growers here today can point to a conversation with Basil, or a word of advice from Jean, that helped them through a difficult season, a planting decision, or a technical challenge. That willingness to share and to guide has multiplied far beyond their own farm, helping build an industry culture of openness and collaboration.

Equally important has been their vision of what the hazelnut industry could become. At times when the industry was small and fragile, Basil and Jean remained steadfast in their belief that hazelnuts had a place in Australia, particularly in the cooler regions with suitable soils and climates. Their persistence through both good seasons and tough years helped to prove that belief true, and to encourage further investment and confidence in the crop.

Life Membership is not only about honouring service; it is about recognising the spirit in which that service was given. Basil and Jean's contribution has always been marked by humility, generosity, and an unwavering commitment to the industry as a whole. They represent the very best of what it means to be part of Hazelnut Growers of Australia.

On behalf of all members, past and present, it is a pleasure and a privilege to thank Basil and Jean for their extraordinary contribution, and to welcome them as Life Members of Hazelnut Growers of Australia.